

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/GB2004/004813

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 B07B1/48

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 B07B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2003/057140 A1 (HUKKI ARI M ET AL) 27 March 2003 (2003-03-27) page 2, paragraph 22 - paragraph 27; figures 5-7	25
Y	US 5 226 546 A (JANSSENS ET AL) 13 July 1993 (1993-07-13) column 3, line 17 - line 41	1
A	figures 2,3	2,16-20
Y	GB 2 059 807 A (RUSSELL FINEX LTD) 29 April 1981 (1981-04-29) page 1, line 50 - line 64	1
A	page 2, line 14 - line 74	2,11-17
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *G* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

6 June 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

15. 06. 2005

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6 096 210 A (HAZRATI ET AL) 1 August 2000 (2000-08-01) column 4, line 26 - line 36	1
A	column 1, line 10 - line 18; figure 2	2,11,12, 16,17,27
Y	DE 202 11 833 U1 (BLAZEJ, JAROSLAV) 14 November 2002 (2002-11-14) page 4, paragraph 1	1
A	figures 1,2	2,11,12, 16,17
A	US 3 422 955 A (WALTON L. MOCK ET AL) 21 January 1969 (1969-01-21) column 5, line 66 - line 71	27
A	US 4 755 287 A (JONES ET AL) 5 July 1988 (1988-07-05) column 3, line 2 - line 18 column 3, line 65 - column 4, line 2	27

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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 33
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 33

Present claims 33 relate to an extremely large number of possible separators. In fact, the claims contain so many options that a lack of clarity (and conciseness) within the meaning of Article 6 PCT arises to such an extent as to render a meaningful search of the claims impossible. Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the application which do appear to be clear (and concise), namely claims 1 -32.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-24,26* (*as dependent to claims 1- 24)

A screen separating apparatus having expandable clamping means and clamping members movable between a deployed and non-deployed position.

2. claims: 25,26* (*as dependent to claim 25)

A vibratable screen separator having at least two clamping members for the sieve.

3. claims: 27-32

A screen separating apparatus comprising a sheath forming a space with a cover and a hopper, the space being pressurized.

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2003057140 A1	27-03-2003	US 6513665 B1 AU 1247201 A CA 2389371 A1 EP 1227896 A2 NO 20022070 A WO 0133186 A2	04-02-2003 14-05-2001 10-05-2001 07-08-2002 25-06-2002 10-05-2001
US 5226546 A	13-07-1993	EP 0583370 A1 US 5255789 A WO 9219392 A1	23-02-1994 26-10-1993 12-11-1992
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US 4755287 A	05-07-1988	CA 1252424 A1	11-04-1989